

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09429 091022Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01

EUR-25 /108 W

----- 043585

R 090838Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3650

DIA

INFO CINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MCAP LE

SUBJECT: CALL-UP OF ARMY RESERVES

1. ON 6 AUG, THE LEBANESE ARMY ISSUED A CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING A FORTHCOMING LOTTERY TO SELECT RESERVISTS. THE LOTTERY TO BE HELD ON 12 AUG ON NATIONWIDE TV WILL SELECT RECRUITS FROM STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MILITARY TRAINING DURING THE THREE YEARS, 1970, 71, 72. RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED TO ALL ARMY GARRISONS AND THE PRESS ON 13 AUG. THOSE RESERVISTS SELECTED MUST REPORT TO RECRUITMENT OFFICES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY REGIONS ON 13 & 14 AUG TO COMPLETE INFORMATION FORMS FOR ASSIGNMENT. ASSIGNMENT LISTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED TO ALL GARRISONS AND RECRUITS MUST REPORT TO THEIR PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT ON 20 AUGUST.

2. THE ARMY CIRCULAR CITES AS ITS AUTHORITY DECREE NUMBER 10 OF 7 JUL 67, ARTICLES 260, 269, 284 AND 288 OF DECREE NUMBER 33 OF 19 JAN 55 (RESERVISTS LAW) AND ARTICLE 7 OF THE LAW OF 8 DEC 53 (MILITARY TRAINING).

3. COMMENT.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09429 091022Z

A. AN OFFICIAL SOURCE IN MIN OF DEFENSE TOLD DATT
THE CG HAS AUTHORITY UNDER EXISTING LAWS TO CALL-UP STUD-
ENT "TRAINEES" FOR A PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS ONLY BUT WILL
SEEK PARLIAMENT APPROVAL TO EXTEND PERIOD TO ONE YEAR.
GENERAL GHANEM TOLD DATT THAT CALL-UP FOR RESERVISTS
WOULD BE FOR 6 MONTHS AND AFTER THAT A CALL-UP OF UNTRAINED
PERSONNEL WOULD BE MADE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE
FIRST CALL-UP IS TWO INCREMENTS OF 3 MONTHS EACH OR ONE
OF 6 MONTHS.

B. THE IMPENDING CALL-UP IS A SHORT TERM ANSWER
TO THE ARMY'S CONTINUING MANPOWER PROBLEM. EFFORTS TO
RECRUIT SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS HAVE APPARENTLY FAILED.
ACCORDING TO ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ADMIN & LOG
THERE ARE 5,000 TO 6,000 STUDENT RESERVISTS AVAILABLE.
(THIS IS PARTIALLY VERIFIED BY ARMY'S RECENT REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL 5,000 M-16 RIFLES). IF ALL WERE CALLED,
THEY WOULD BE BARELY SUFFICIENT TO FILL EXISTING VACAN-
CIES IN COMBAT UNITS MANY OF WHICH ARE 30 - 40 PERCENT UNDER-
STRENGTH AND WOULD FALL SHORT OF THE NUMBERS NEEDED
FOR THE OFTEN MENTIONED 25,000 MAN ARMY.

COMMENT: IN THIS RESPECT ACCORDING TO MIN OF DEFENSE
SOURCE, ALL CALL-UPS WILL BE ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO COMBAT
UNITS RATHER THAN A TRAINING BATTALION.
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